New standards imposed on leather goods

@1026. PROF B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rigid new standards have been imposed for the finished leather goods as per the recommendations of the Pande Committee on leather and leather manufacturers;

(b) whether it is a fact that semi-processed leather is being exported in the garb of finished leather as the earlier ISI standard of 1981 is too liberal; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to revise the decision in the light of the difficulties faced by the small scale sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) Stricter guidelines for identification of finished leather for export were enforced with effect from 1st September, 1985 so as to plug the loophole of semi-finished/crust leather being exported as finished leather under the 1981 guidelines.

Some individual manufacturer-exporters of leather and All India Small Scale Tanners and Exporters Association, Madras, challenged the Government's above decision in Madras and Hyderabad High Courts and the matter is *sub judice*.

Extinction of the medicinal plants in the country

@@1027. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that about fourteen medicinal plants in the country are facing extinction; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the steps that Government have taken to save them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

A list (*see* below) of some of the medicinal plants identified by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) facing extinction in the wild in India is annexed. Some rare plants of medicinal importance are being cultivated in the Indian Botanic Garden of Botanical Survey of India at Calcutta and Experimental Gardens located at different parts of India, in order to evolve methdologies for their propagation, maliplication, acclimatization and suitability for large-scale cultivation. A Scheme of Captive Breeding of Endangered Plant Species has also been sanctioned recently and is being implemented by the BSI. Besides, the organisations under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are engaged in scientific propagation of medicinal plants. Trade and commerce in endangered plants are not permitted under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

LIST

Certain important medicinal plants identified by the Botanical Survey of India facing extinction in the wild in India

1. ACONITUM DEINORRHIZUM *stapf.* (Ranunculaceae) Indian Aconite: Originally discovered from Bashahr

@Previously unstarred Question 63 transferred from the 27th July, 1987.

@@Previously unstarred Question 338 transferred from the 29th July 1987.

Him;; recently from Bhadrawah (J&K); rare, exploited for medicine and extracting poison from rhizomes. Also other species of the genus in India (mostly W. Himalayan).

2. ATROPA ACUMINATE Royle ex Lindl. (Solanaceae) *"Deadly Nightshade"* Indian Belladonna: Himachal, Kashmir, rare; exploited.

3. COLCHICUM LUTEUM Baker (Liliaceae) *"Yellow Autumn Crocus"* Rare and vulnerabe, endemic to N.W. Himal., exploited for alkaloid-Colchicine.

4. COPTIS TEETA Wall. (Ranunculaceae 'Mishmee teeta'—Mishmee Hills (Endemic), natural populations dwindled due to exploitation of roots (rhizomes) of medicinal value, presenty in cultivation in Arunachal—Siang & Lohit Districts.

5. DIANTHUS CACHEMIRICUS Edgew. (Cryophyl laceae) *"Divine-Flower of Kashmir"* Endemic & rare in Kashmir Himalaya, used for its perfume yielding flowers alongwith D. *chinensis* L.

6. DIOSCOREA DELTOIDEA wall. ex Kunth (Dioscoreaceae) *"Deltoid leaved Dioscorea"* Western Himal vulnerable due to over-exploitation of tuberous roots in the past; cultivation trials proved not very succuessful, yields diosgenin—valued in medicine.

7. GENTIANA KURROO Royle (Gentianaceae) *"Kuroo Gentian"* Vulnerable in W. Himal., expoited for its medicinal importance.

8. NARDOSTACHYS GRANDIFLORA DC. (Valerianaceae) 'Jatamansi of the Himalayas. (Himalayan spikenard) rhizomes aromatic, over-exploited rendering it vulnerabe.

9. Podophyllum hexandrum Royly (Podophyllaceae) The Himalayan May-apple, became vulnerable and rare in the wild due to over-exploitation for medicinal use.

10. RAUVOLFIA SERPENTINA (Linn.) Benth. ex Kurz (Apocynaceae) 'Sarpagandha of Indian Medicine, widely distributed but wild populations have become very rare and vulnerable due to excessive collections for its rhizomatous roots, now under cultivation in some places.

11. RHEUM NOBILE Hook. f. & Thoms (Polygonaceae) The rhuburb of the eastern Himalaya; becoming scarce due to removal of plants; the leaves are used as susbtitute for tobacco by the natives.

12. Saussurea costus (Falc.) Lipsch. (= S. LAPPA CL.) (Asteraceae) The Kuth of the Western Himalaya; natural population vulnerable due to past excessive exploitation; export of natural populations banned under the CITES; cultivated in some parts. Also other species of Saussurea of the Western Himalaya; S. bracteata Decne-Brahmakamal for worship.

13. COMIPHORA WEIGHT II (Arn.) Bhandari (Burseraeae) "Gugal"—Wild plants in Rajasthan & Gujarat over-exploited in the past rendering it rare; now under cultivation for its medicinal gum-resin.

14. BERBERIS KASHMIRIANA Ahrendt (Berberidaceae) Kashmir Barberry Kashmir

Endemic in Jammu & Kashmir, vulnerable in nature due to exploitation for its medicinal roots for Bereeridine.

15. BERBERIS LAMBERTII Parker (Berberidaceae)

Lambert's Barberry

Vulnerable and endemic to Almora Distt. Kumaon in temperate parts; roots exploited for Berberidine.

16. ARNEHIA BENTHAMIL (Wall. ex. G. Don Johnston (Boaginaceae)

Bentham's "Prophet Flower"

Scattered populations in the Western Himalaya vulnerable due to exploitation for its medicinal roots.

Bomb blast on rail track in Moradabad

@1028. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a bomb blast took place on the rail track in Moradabad on June 11, 1987;

(b) whether investigations were made into the matter; and

(c) if so, what are the results of those investigations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Firing by Bangladesh Rifles on Indian citizens

1029. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Bangladesh Rifles opened fire on Indian citizens on 1st June, 1987 in the Sabroom Sub-Division of South Tripura district in Tripura, on the Indo-Bangladesh border;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to take up the matter with the Bangladesh Government so that similar incidents may not happen in future; and

(c) what measure Government have taken for the security of Indian citizen on the Indo-Bangladesh border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) It is a fact that Bangladesh Rifles opened unprovoked fire on Indian people on 1st June, 1987 from area Bagan Bari of Bangladesh opposite BSF border outpost Chhatak-hil. One woman Smt. Kajaldevi, wife of Shri Motilal of Bijor Nagar, PS Sabroom, Distt. South Tripura was injured as a result of stray bullet.

(b) A strong protest Note has been lodged by BSF with Bangladesh Rifles counter-part against above firing on Indian civilians by BDR. A meeting of sector Commander level has been held by BSF Comdrs. with BDR counter-part on 22 June, 1987 in which the above issue was taken up with BDR.

(c) The frequency of patrolling and night ambush by BSF has been increased. BSF border outposts in the affected area have been strengthened. The Indian border population has also been alerted.

Take-over of closed jute mills

1030. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of jute mills in the country which are lying closed as on 30th June, 1987; and

(b) whether Government propose to take over these mills; if so, by when; and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) 21 jute mills were lying closed in the country as on 30th June, 1987 affecting about 76,400 workers.

(b) No Sir. Government are of the view that nationalisation is not the solution for dealing with the problems of the

@Previously Unstarred Question 457 Transferred from the 29th July, 1987.